

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00646 121310Z
ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DODE-00 SP-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IT
SUBJECT: RUMP LABOR PROTEST AT LEADERSHIP DEAL ON IMF TERMS.

1. MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND DELEGATES, REPRESENTING SOME FIVE HUNDRED FACTORY COUNCILS FROM PLACES AS FAR AWAY AS TARANTO AND NAPLES AS WELL AS NORTHERN ITALY, LASHED OUT AT TRADE UNION HIERARCHY IN ALL-DAY SESSIONS HELD AT MILAN'S LYRIC THEATRE APRIL 6. GATHERING HAD BEEN CALLED BY COLLECTION FIM-CISL LOCALS IN SEMIONE INDUSTRIAL AREA, OUTSIDE MILAN.

2. TWO PRINCIPAL ACCUSATIONS BROUGHT AGAINST NATIONAL LABOR LEADERS WERE ALLEGED SWEETHEART RELATIONSHIPS IN EXISTENCE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES AND LACK OF DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES IN DECIDING TRADE MOVEMENT POSITIONS. THERE COULD BE NO MISTAKE THAT CHARGE WAS AIMED IN FIRST INSTANCE AT CGIL, QUILTY - ACCORDING TO DISSIDENTS-BOTH OF SUBORDINATING WORKERS' RIGHTS TO PCI INTERESTS AND OF STIFLING EXPRESSION WITHIN CGIL.

3. LABOR REPORTING OFFICER WAS TOLD BY PSI OFFICIAL OF CGIL THAT IN DAYS PRECEDING GATHERING THERE WERE MOMENTS WHEN IT SEEMED SOME METALWORKERS WANTED TO START A FOURTH LABOR ORGANIZATION. RESENTMENT AMONG METALWORKERS HAD BEEN SPARKED MOST RECENTLY IN
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PRECEDING WEEK'S MARATHON NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT, WHEN LABOR BRASS FOUND ITSELF MANEUVERING - AND YIELDING GROUND TO IMF, WITH GOVERNMENT AS MIDDLEMAN. THIS WAS SEEN AS SUBMISSION BROUGHT ON BY COZINESS WITH POLITICAL WORLD; THAT WORKERS HAD BEEN DUPED BY THEIR OWN. A COMMON COMPLAINT ON APRIL 6 WAS THAT LABOR CHIEFS SPOLE IN ONE WAY AT PLANT MEETINGS, ANOTHER WAY IN SALON.

4. LABOR JOURNALIST FROM CONSERVATIVE "IL GIORNALE", AGREED THIS CHARACTERIZATION ADDING THAT APRIL 6 GATHERING WAS ALSO RESULT OF AGITATION BY CISL EXTRAPARLIAMENTARIANS. HE POINTED

OUT THAT ONE FIM-CISL SECRETARY - PIERGIORGIO TINONI OF MILAN - HAD USED LANGUAGE CURRENTLY IN VOGUE WITH RADICALS IN CALLING LABOR LEADERS "PALEFACES WHO SPEAK WITH FORKED TONGUES", NEWSMAN FELT THAT IBONI, FOR ONE, WAS TESTING GROUND FOR LAUNCHING A NEW ORGANIZATION.

5. DESPITE CLAMOR, DISSIDENT RALLY ENDED WITH RESOLUTION THAT TERMED THE APRIL 6 MEETING A STOCKTAKING EXERCISE, A MATTER OF SELF ANALYSIS WITHIN LABOR MOVEMENT. THIS FELL SHORT OF THEME, RECURRENT DURING DAY, THAT LEADERSHIP HAD NO RIGHT TO DEFINE TRADE UNION POSITIONS UNTIL RANK AND FILE HAD BEEN CONSULTED. THAT EVENT HAD NOT REACHED ITS PROMOTER'S OBJECTIVES WAS UNDERLINED WHEN PIERRE CARNITI -LEADER OF CISL LEFT-WING AND REPUTED FAVORITE OF DISSIDENTS - IN ADDRESSING AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN MILAN ON APRIL 7 - FIRMLY REJECTED CRITICISM OF LEADERSHIP'S PERFORMANCE IN FACE OF IMF DEMANDS. CARNITI SAID TRADE UNIONISTS COULD NOT TAKE UPON THEMSELVES RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFUSAL OF IMF LOAN TERMS SINCE THAT IT COULD MEAN COLLAPSE OF ITALIAN ECONOMY.

6. LABOR DISSIDENTS HAVE BEEN CONTAINED FOR TIME BEING. BUT CHAPTER IS CLEARLY NOT YET CLOSED AND HOW CGIL WILL REACT TO THIS LEFT FLANKING MOVEMENT AS YET UNKNOWN.FINA

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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